

Born on the neighboring island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, he moved with his family to St. Croix when he was two months old. He was the valedictorian of the then Christiansted High School in 1958 and went on to attend Inter-American University in Puerto Rico. He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1968 as a sergeant. He later taught at the then Christiansted Grammar School and worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I have two special recollections of personal interactions with him as Governor. He made time to meet with me when there was a controversy surrounding the naming of the park in Frederiksted. Several of us had decided to ask him to consider vetoing the bill as passed by the Legislature and he did. I don't exactly remember the details of his negotiations with the HESS refinery. But at the time it seemed to me that he was not getting the support he needed and so in an attempt to rise above party politics, I secured the signatures to call a special meeting to urge the Territorial Committee of the Democratic Party to support him during the negotiations. My efforts were not successful, but I know he appreciated the attempt.

I believe that history will be exceedingly kind to the memory of Governor Luis as we can see his contributions in the health care system, in education, in the economy and in other aspects that affect the daily lives of Virgin Islanders. His efforts were sincere and those of us in office today build on the foundations that were set during his tenure. With the passage of time people have the chance to assess the contributions of those who live their lives in service to the public. It can be said of Governor Juan Luis that he had a clear vision and that he worked diligently to accomplish his intended goals and that we the people, were better off for it.

Mr. Speaker, my family, staff and I extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Mrs. Luz Luis and his children Juan, Jr. and Carlota Amalia. May Governor Juan Francisco Luis rest in peace.

HONORING DYERSBURG
SUPERINTENDENT LLOYD RAMER

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor and thank Mr. Lloyd Ramer for an outstanding 42-year career of serving in public education as Superintendent of the Dyersburg City Schools. Mr. Ramer will retire from service as Superintendent on June 7, 2011. We celebrate his accomplishments and wish him well in his future endeavors.

As an exceptional leader and education advocate, Mr. Ramer began with the Dyersburg School System in 1969. He has functioned in numerous roles ranging from a contemporary studies teacher, acting director, basketball coach, curriculum coordinator, and assistant superintendent. In 1994, Mr. Ramer accepted the responsibility of Superintendent, demonstrating what a colleague calls his "driving commitment to excellence and his continued quest for quality educational opportunities for our students." His commitment has been prov-

en by spending all 42 years of his career working for the Dyersburg City Schools. His years of working with the city schools prove his tremendous commitment to public education.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Mr. Ramer for encouraging thousands of young Americans to achieve their fullest potential.

Please join me in honoring Mr. Lloyd Ramer upon his retirement from public education.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA WOJCICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I pause to remember the great life and work of Patricia Wojcik the longtime director of the Department of Senior Services in Cheektowaga, New York.

For nearly two and a half decades Pat dedicated her life to making the lives of seniors in Western New York healthier, happier and more fulfilled.

Upon first assuming her leadership role in town government in 1980, Pat made it her mission to give local seniors a place to gather, learn, have fun and build friendships.

Two short years later the Cheektowaga Senior Center opened its doors and over the years since, thousands of seniors were greeted at those doors by Pat's smiling face and kind words.

The many ways Pat touched the lives of others is far too great to mention here but her commitment is demonstrated in the respect she had for the commitment of those she served. Each year one of her trademark events was a ceremony which included a splendid celebration for Cheektowaga couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Her devotion to her work didn't go unrecognized. She received citizen of the year awards from the Am Pol Eagle and Zonta Club, was recognized by the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation and in 2005 I was honored to nominate her to represent our area for the White House Conference on the Aging.

That same year, 25 years after she first started, Pat turned over her duties at Cheektowaga's Senior Center and began a well-deserved retirement.

On June 10, 2011 I will join long-time Cheektowaga leader Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak, Pat's friends, family and co-workers to plant a tree in Pat Wojcik's honor in front of the building where she spent so many years.

Her memory will live on with this tree as well as in the hearts of all of us who knew and loved her.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the LaTourette amendment and of the thousands of American workers, contractors and small businesses that benefit from the use of Project Labor Agreements.

Created by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, Project Labor Agreements, or PLAs, allow construction workers to enter into a collective bargaining agreement that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for all workers on a construction project.

Project Labor Agreements are cost effective and pro-business. They are used in every State on private- and public-sector construction projects. Fortune 500 companies such as Wal-Mart, Toyota, and Boeing praise and use PLAs because they provide contractors with a reliable and uninterrupted supply of trained workers at predictable costs for wages and benefits.

PLAs provide uniform working conditions and rules on construction sites, thereby making the work site safer while businesses benefit by paying less in worker compensation and avoid project delays due to the lessened risk of job site accidents.

PLAs encourage the employment of local residents, ensuring that these workers' paychecks will be spent in the local community. PLAs can also be used as a way to enhance the work opportunities of military veterans and underrepresented communities.

PLAs have been used for the construction of some of our Nation's most iconic building projects, including the Coulee Dam in Washington State, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

PLAs represent the best of what can happen when labor and business come together.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support American workers and businesses and vote in favor of the LaTourette amendment.

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of New York's 20th District to express our sincere appreciation for the Open Space Institute's continued preservation and protection of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in my hometown of Kinderhook, NY.

The Martin Van Buren National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1974 in order to commemorate the life and work of President Martin Van Buren through the preservation and interpretation of Lindenwald, his home and farm. When the site was established, Kinderhook was a rural farming community, like many towns in the Mid-Hudson River Valley. Over the years, new homes and the loss of agricultural land began to threaten the area surrounding the park. These changes compromised the historic integrity of the property.